

“pro-poor” groups in the region. But this claim is troubling on two levels. First, CAFTA would actually help the poor: It would create 300,000 new jobs in shoes, textiles and apparel; it would create a new mechanism for enforcing labor rights; and a World Bank study has found that the vast majority of poor families in the region would gain from the deal. But second, the defeat of CAFTA would help not anti-poverty movements but anti-American demagogues, starting with Mr. Chavez. For them, the retreat of the United States from partnership with Central America would be a major victory.

**A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
CAPITOL POLICE OFFICER KEITH
D. ATKINS**

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Officer Keith D. Atkins is an exceptional individual worthy of merit and recognition; and

Whereas, Officer Keith D. Atkins has acted with graciousness and selflessness; and

Whereas, Officer Keith D. Atkins should be commended for his excellence, for his leadership and integrity, and for his ongoing efforts to affect other people's lives in a positive and in a changing way.

Therefore, I join with the family whose time was enhanced by Officer Keith D. Atkins' personal tour of the Capitol, which was beyond his realm of duty, and for his accommodating and courteous attitude while assisting them throughout their day at the Nation's Capitol.

**15TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERI-
CANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate the 15th anniversary of the signing of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA extended landmark civil rights protections to an estimated 43 million disabled Americans, which is roughly 1 out of every 7 Americans. It established a comprehensive prohibition of discrimination on the basis of disability in the areas of employment, public services, transportation, and telecommunications.

The ADA seeks to guarantee that every American should have the right to live independently and fully participate in all aspects of our society. The ADA has had its greatest successes in improving physical accessibility, transportation and communications. The ADA has also begun to change society's attitudes toward people with disabilities.

Despite this impressive progress, the promise of the ADA unfortunately remains unfilled for too many disabled Americans. In the area of employment, for example, today only 35 percent of people of working age who have a disability are employed, compared to 78 percent of people without disabilities. Federal courts have also issued rulings interpreting the ADA whereby individuals may be considered too disabled by an employer to get a job, but not disabled enough by the courts to be pro-

tected by the ADA. This violates the spirit and intent of the ADA, which was designed to protect employees from discrimination based on real or perceived impairment. Congress should take action to correct these court decisions and strengthen the ADA.

As a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, I was pleased that in 1999 Congress enacted the Ticket to Work Act, which provides Americans receiving disability benefits with greater access to vocational rehabilitation services. This initiative provides tickets to recipients of both Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) that can be used to purchase rehabilitation, employment and other supportive services designed to help them secure and maintain a job. Payments to providers of these services are based on the success individuals using the tickets have in overcoming barriers and ultimately in becoming employed.

The Ticket to Work Act also created state options to eliminate the dilemma faced by many individuals receiving disability benefits—choosing between work and health insurance coverage. The Ticket to Work Act allows States to adopt a Medicaid “buy-in” program to permit individuals to maintain Medicaid coverage while still working. Finally, the measure extended Medicare Part A coverage to working SSDI beneficiaries for a total of 8½ years—4 years beyond the coverage previously provided by Medicare.

As our Nation celebrates the 15th anniversary of the ADA, let us rededicate ourselves to carry out the commitment of that historic legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, due to important congressional business, I was unable to vote during the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below: rollcall No. 417: yes; rollcall No. 418: yes; and rollcall No. 419: yes.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO TOM
CLEVELAND**

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the outstanding performance of Officer Tom Cleveland at the World Police and Fire Games in Quebec City, Canada.

The World Police and Fire Games, the second largest international sporting event, has been a longstanding tradition for Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters in several countries throughout the world. This international event takes place every other year as a chance for them to showcase their athletic abilities.

This year, Tom's determination and drive led him to be one of the best among the 10,000 competitors from 51 countries world-

wide. He finished 3rd in the 400 Int. Hurdles, 5th in the 110 High Hurdles and 12th in the Toughest Competitor Alive competition.

I am proud to recognize Officer Tom Cleveland a fine citizen and athlete. We are proud of his accomplishments and to have him represent and serve the North Richland Hills Community, the 26th District of Texas, and our great Nation.

**A PROCLAMATION HONORING JIM
CARNES ON THE OCCASION OF
HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES**

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Jim Carnes is retiring from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources after years of exemplary service; and

Whereas, Jim Carnes served the people of the State of Ohio as a State Senator from 1995 until 2004 representing the former twentieth Senate district, having over forty pieces of legislation passed into law during his terms in office; and

Whereas, Jim Carnes has been among the most well-liked and well-respected men, noted for his energetic spirit and dedication to his job; and

Whereas, Jim Carnes will be deeply missed by all who have had the privilege to work with him.

Therefore, I join with his fellow colleagues, family, and friends in thanking Jim Carnes for his service to the State of Ohio and wish him the very best on the occasion of his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, on July 25, I was returning to Washington from an oversight trip in Iraq and, therefore, missed three recorded votes.

I take my voting responsibility very seriously and would like the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to reflect that, had I been present, I would have voted yes on recorded vote No. 417, yes on recorded vote No. 418, and yes on recorded vote No. 419.

**TRIBUTE TO MAXINE FREEMYER—
THE PERFECT OLDER AMERICAN**

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Maxine Freemyer. Maxine Freemyer is the perfect example of a successful older American. At 93 years young, she refuses to allow her advancing age, failing eyesight or